

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 01906 150606Z

17

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EUR-12 SAJ-01 EA-07 SCCT-01 /080 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1906

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, BG

SUBJECT: JSD CALLS FOR DEMONSTRATION

REF: DACCA 1616

1. THE JATIYO SAMAJTANTRIK DAL (JSD) HAS CALLED ON BANGLADESHIS TO OBSERVE TOMORROW (APRIL 15) AS "OPPOSE FARAKKA CONSPIRACY AND INDIAN AGRESSION" DAY. ACCORDING TO A FLYER WHICH HAS BEEN CIRCULATING IN RECENT DAYS, THE JSD PROPOSES PROCESSIONS, DEMONSTRATIONS AND STUDENT STRIKES. IN ADDITION, THE JSD PROPOSES TO SUBMIT MEMORANDA REGARDING FAREFKA AND OTHER INDIAN "CONSPIRACIES" TO UNSPECIFIED DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. WE EXPECT OBSERVATION OF THE DAY WILL BE CONFINED TO DACCA.

2. THE JSD FLYER IS NOTEWORTHY FOR MORE THAN ITS ATTACKS ON INDIA. FOR EXAMPLE, IT LUMPS THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES TOGETHER AS CO-CONSPIRATORS WITH INDIA, AND STRESSES THAT BANGLADESH CAN BEST PROTECT ITSELF THROUGH "REALLY EFFECTIVE AND PERMANENT FRIENDSHIP WITH... CHINA". IT ALSO NOT RPT NOT ONLY ATTACKS THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT FOR ITS FAILURE TO RESOLVE THE FARAKKA PROBLEM

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 DACCA 01906 150606Z

BUT CLAIMS THAT THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION IS DOING

SO DELIBERATELY. "IN FACT THE BOURGEOISIE RULERS WANT TO KEEP THIS PROBLEM HANGING FOR THEIR POLITICAL ENDS AND SO THAT THEY CAN DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE FROM THE JUST DEMANDS AND DAY-TO-DAY PROBLEMS". MOREOVER, IN CRITICIZING THE MLA REGARDING ITS ACTION AGAINST "INDIAN CONSPIRACIES", THE FLYER ATTACKS THE MLA'S MARCH 26 PROPOSAL TO AMNESTY SOME AMONG THE FOLLOWERS OF SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN. "INSTEAD OF TAKING PROPER MEASURES TO SAFE-GUARD OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY THE PRESENT REGIME HAS EXPRESSED ITS INTENTIONS OF AN AMNESTY FOR THE BKSAL ELEMENTS SIMILAR TO THE ONE GRANTED TO MUSLIM LEAGUE -- JAMAAT NEZAM -- RAZAKAR -- AL BADR -- AL SHAMS AND OTHER ANTI-NATIONAL ELEMENTS OPPOSED TO THE VERY EXISTENCE OF BANGLADESH AS A FREE AND SOVEREIGN NATION."

3. THE CRITICISM OF THE MLA FOR ITS PROPOSED AMNESTY OF BAKSALITES IS OF SPECIAL MOMENT. AMONG SOME OF THE MIDDLE CLASS WHO FEEL THAT THEY SUFFERED PARTICULARLY DURING THE PERIOD OF AWAMI LEAGUE/BAKSAL RULE, THERE IS AN UNDERCURRENT OF GRUMBLING OVER RUMORED EFFORTS BY GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN TO DEVELOP A FOLLOWING AMONG FORMER AWAMI LEAGUERS. THEY SEE ZIA AS NOW ACTIVELY PREPARING A POLITICAL BASE WHICH WILL RELY ON "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" AND SOME AMONG THE FORMER AWAMI LEAGUE. THIS MIDDLE CLASS GROUP, WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE SOME TIES WITH OFFICERS REPATRIATED FROM PAKISTAN, IS BEGINNING TO QUESTION ZIA'S STANCE VIS-A-VIS INDIAN, AND IS EVEN WILLING TO ASSERT THAT THE BDG'S TWO AND ONE-HALF MONTH LONG CAMPAIGN AGAINST INDIA OVER FARAKKA IS INTENDED LARGELY TO MASK ZIA'S REAL INTENTION TO ADOPT A MORE ACCOMMODATING POSTURE. THE JSD REFERENCE TO THE AMNESTY FOR BAKSAL MEMBERS WILL ENHANCE THESE SUSPICIONS, AS DOES THE ASSERTION THAT THE FARAKKA ISSUE IS BEING MANIPULATED FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL ENDS.

4. PRESENT INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT TOMORROW'S DEMONSTRATION BY JSD WILL PROBABLY TAKE MUCH THE SAME FORM AS DID THAT OF MARCH 31 (SEE REFTEL). IN ANY EVENT, THE CHIEF PURPOSE SEEMS TO BE TO KEEP THE JSD NAME IN THE PUBLIC EYE, AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DACCA 01906 150606Z

THIS ITS STUDENT FOLLOWERS ARE DOING. IN FACT, THEY ARE CONTINUING TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF ORGANIZATION AND DIRECTION, GRANTED IN THE FACE OF A BAN ON POLITICAL ACTIVITY WHICH LIMITS THE PARTY VERY MUCH TO THE UNIVERSITY SCENE, BUT THEY ARE THE ONLY GROUP WHICH IS DOING SO. BOSTER

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